general the prose is not complex, unlike the weight of reflection and analysis it is required to carry.

Although celebrated widely by historians on the left, the denseness and complexity of *Una guerra civile* left a vast space open for right-wing populists to exploit as Berlusconi and his neo-Fascist allies rose to power in the 1990s, and set about demolishing the Resistance 'myths' once and for all. This revisionist effort dominated the anniversary celebrations of 1995 and 2005. But the neo-Fascists split with Berlusconi in 2010, and faded away. The 2015 celebrations were the first in seventy years not to be dominated by the contingent political struggles between left and right of the moment, and passed by very quietly. In general, the economic crisis, which is also political and institutional, buried the old twentieth-century questions under a crushing weight of concern about the future. But Pavone's book will always remain as the outstanding monument to the Resistance movement in its philosophical and political dimensions. To the extent that this new edition in English generates heightened attention and respect from outside for the achievements of the partisan forces in Italy, that will be a measure of its success.

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Les prisonniers de guerre allemands: France, 1944–1949, by Fabien Théofilakis (Paris: Fayard, 2014; pp. 762. €32).

Fabien Théofilakis' book on German prisoners of war in France between 1944 and 1949 begins with the short story of an Alsatian shopkeeper, who had taken on a German prisoner of war in 1946 to help with his daily work. Everything had gone well and the German prisoner even ate at the family table, until a man from the French interior grassed on him. In order to appease public opinion, he had henceforward to have his breakfast in a public location. After his return to Germany, contact was maintained, but the former prisoner of war never accepted invitations to family functions in France. This story, as well as the fact that the author collected interviews with a great number of former German prisoners of war in France during the early 2000s, raises high expectations—not least because the topic of German prisoners of war in France at the end of the Second World War has for a long time been an under-researched field. Théofilakis, currently active at the Centre Marc Bloch in Berlin, sets out to fill this gap in historiography with his book of more than 700 pages. It is divided into three parts, which deal with German prisoners of war in France, with prisoners of war in diplomatic relations and with the relationship between the issue of prisoners of war and French occupation policy in Germany.

The author starts at the moment of capture, which was quite traumatic for many men, because it meant that all the ideals that they had been fighting for (many for several years) finally came to nought. Not many became victims of violence at the moment of capture: such acts usually only took place when small groups were captured in locations where German assaults on the civilian population had taken place earlier (pp. 62–3). The author then turns to life in

prisoner-of-war camps during the last phase of the war and the early post-war period. Instead of looking at the experiences of his interviewees, his first focus is on institutions such as government agencies or the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). He shows convincingly how challenging the situation was for the French authorities, who had, for the most part, only just returned from exile and were faced with rebuilding their country's infrastructure as well as its governmental and military institutions. It was only with help from the ICRC, as well as from the authorities of Switzerland and the United States (the latter handing over large numbers of prisoners to France at the end of the war) that the French authorities finally managed successfully to overcome the many problems that faced them with regard to prisoners of war. It is impossible for this reviewer to assess Théofilakis' positive judgement of the achievements of the French authorities, but some scepticism remains as to whether problematic cases were only isolated, not least because the author stresses the enormity of the problems with which the authorities were faced at the end of the war, such as demobilisation and rising unemployment in France. At this point, it might have been sensible to have looked more closely at such isolated cases—perhaps by further consideration of his interview evidence—instead of trusting government and ICRC sources.

In subsequent chapters, Théofilakis discusses escapes and escape routes (mentioning a then non-existent canton of Jura in Switzerland [p. 217]) and raises the importance of the prisoners of war as labourers in the reconstruction of the French post-war economy and the clearing of war-related damage, as well as (based on a highly statistical analysis) the French perception of the German prisoners of war. In an extremely strong part of his book (in which the interviewees play a central role) Théofilakis shows that conflicts existed, but that these mainly applied at the official rather than the individual level (pp. 356–66). It is a pity that the author then returns to the history of institutions, looking at the diplomatic relationship of the provisional government of de Gaulle with the Nazi authorities in the last phase of the war, with the ICRC and later with the governmental and military authorities of the United States. In this chapter Théofilakis uses a lot of acronyms, which are difficult to follow for a reader not familiar with the many French institutions mentioned by the author. This becomes even more difficult in the last part of the book, on the significance of the prisoners-of-war issue for the French occupation policy in their own zone. Two examples that occur intermittently in this context are 'CCFA' (Commander in Chief of the French Forces in Germany) and 'CSTO' (Superior Commanding Officer of French Occupation Troops). Nevertheless, Théofilakis does show convincingly how important the issue of keeping prisoners of war in France was for French occupation policy in Germany and how the different political and military authorities involved were not always in agreement as to the steps to be taken. He also reveals the extent to which the destiny of prisoners of war became a central concern for Churches. Théofilakis closes on quite a positive note, stressing the contribution of former German prisoners of war to the new understanding between France and Germany in the post-Second World War period. This stood in significant contrast to the period after the First World War.

Théofilakis has conducted many interviews and consulted an enormous amount of sources, relevant articles and books for his study, which enables him to present a detailed and thorough analysis of the handling of prisoners of war

in France in the period between 1944 and 1949. That said, his focus in most parts is on the functioning of institutions. State actors rather than the prisoners of war are at the centre of this study, and this unfortunately contrasts with the story at the beginning of the book, which raises rather different expectations.

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A Problem of Great Importance: Population, Race, and Power in the British Empire, 1918–1973, by Karl Ittmann (Berkeley, CA: U. of California P., 2013; pp. 299. £27.95).

Almost every aspect of imperial history, from migration to labour, race, coercion and development, concerns population. It is perhaps unsurprising that, as Karl Ittmann demonstrates in his fine book, the emergence of demography as a new social science was followed in Britain by the development of a sub-field of 'colonial demography'. As they engaged with a wide variety of different imperial issues, a nexus of demographers, eugenicists and birth-controllers 'helped define the problem of colonial population' (p. 15). Ittmann's book provides a compelling account of how, in the British context, an emerging social science was profoundly shaped by Britain's imperial role, and informed by contemporary preoccupations with imperial decline. It also demonstrates how activists within the population movement regarded empire with an opportunistic eye to advancing their own causes and concerns.

The central chapters of the book explore the traction this coalition had on imperial and colonial policy. Reading across vast areas of twentieth-century imperial history, Ittmann argues that the new social science of demography offered officials new ways of understanding and potentially managing colonial subjects, as well as a means to address perceived problems of colonial overpopulation. While this leads the author to traverse territory that will be familiar to most students of the twentieth-century British empire, and results in an accumulation of detail on different initiatives and concerns, he offers numerous insights along the way, recasting familiar subjects in novel ways. Notwithstanding Ittmann's claim that population science played 'a significant role in British colonial policy in the twentieth century' (pp. 1–2), however, these chapters reveal a striking mismatch between the plethora of demographic issues that concerned both population activists and policy-makers, and what was actually done. For most of the period, Whitehall officials consistently failed to develop systematic policies or to improve the quality of their statistical data on colonial populations. The Colonial Office came closest to doing so in the 1940s, with the appointment, from 1941, of leading population expert Robert Kuczynski, as first an unofficial and later formal 'demographic advisor', corresponding to the wartime expansion of state machinery and the proliferation of initiatives in relation to colonial social and economic issues more generally. But, as with many such initiatives, momentum was lost in the post-war period in the face of more immediately pressing issues. This was compounded by Kuczynski's death in 1947, although a posthumous three-volume *Demographic Survey of the British Colonial Empire* represented a culmination of his efforts. The limitations of the colonial state hindered efforts